

## REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 39 applies to that claim as amended.

Claims 31, 34, 36, 40 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being unpatentable over Kinsman. Claims 31-33, 36-37, 40 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Trout. Claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinsman in view of Trout. Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Zasowski. Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinsman in view of Doliwa. Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinsman. Claims 41-43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinsman. Claims 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kinsman. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

An object of the presently claimed is to provide a process for preparing fine inorganic dust-like fluxes, especially synthetic titanium dioxide, which are to be introduced into metallurgical smelting systems. All of the cited references merely mention a blend of flux constituents with hydrocarbons or polymers. The fine inorganic materials according to the presently claimed invention are bound onto the surface of the plastic granules or preferably mixed with molten plastic (see description, bridging paragraph page 4 to 5).

Zasowski mentions the using of titanium-containing inorganic materials as constituent of a flux. According to Zasowski the flux are introduced into the molten steel in form of a wire vector. This wire vector consists of:

"[0021] As may be seen in FIG. 2, the wire vector 14 includes an outer layer 24 of a material, such as steel, that has a melting point that is at or beneath the temperature of the molten metal 22. Preferably, the outer layer 24 is fabricated from steel a material with equal or lower melting point than the liquid melt,

preferably the outer layer can be made of steel or aluminum. Outer layer 24 thus encases the nonmetallic substance in an elongated, tube-like hollow cladding of metallic material that is designed to melt after being introduced into the molten metal 22.

[0022] Wire vector 14 further includes an inner body of a powdered denitrogenizing flux material 26, which includes calcium oxide (CaO) and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oxides, silicates, carbonates of alkali and alkaline earth metals and oxides, fluorides, silicates and carbonates of metals selected from the group consisting of Calcium (Ca), Silicon (Si), Magnesium (Mg), Boron (B), Titanium (Ti), Barium (Ba) and Aluminum (Al). The most preferred flux materials are  $\text{CaO-BaO-TiO}_2(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$ ,  $\text{CaO-TiO}_2(\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3)$  and Calcium-Boron oxide bearing fluxes. Alternatively, any other flux that is capable of achieving the desired denitrogenization could be substituted."

The presently claimed invention provides a method for introducing slag-forming additives into metallurgical smelts in a dust free and much more easily measureable way into metallurgical smelts.

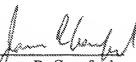
Thus, all rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-320-US.

Respectfully submitted

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